

TO SEARCH FOR BRIBERS.

**The Members-Elect of the Legislature
Are Hot on the Trail
of Boodlers,**

**The Men Who Handled the Money to Pass
the Infamous Warehouse
Law of 1897**

**And the Men Who Handled the Money
to Pass the Infamous Gas
Legislation**

**Will Be Shown Up Properly at Springfield
During the Session About
to Open.**

**Many Leading Lights Will Be Brought to
Book in a Most Unenviable
Way.**

Chicago is one of the greatest grain centers of the world, and conditions here frequently affect prices everywhere. We have here a large number of grain elevators, with a storage capacity of about 90,000,000 bushels of wheat. They are chartered by law, and the owners act as trustees or custodians of other people's grain. The grain is inspected by an officer of the State, and is graded No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, as the case may be, and generally is sold by this grading, and all grain of the second grade is then poured together, the warehouse man giving a receipt for so many bushels of that particular grade. And when this receipt is again presented, he does not give back the same grain, but simply so many bushels of that grade. It was soon found that all grain of the same grade is not equally good—there will be No. 2 wheat almost equal to No. 1, and there will be No. 2 wheat falling close to No. 3. And in all those cases where wheat is sold, not by the grading, but rather by sample—as for milling purposes—the best quality sometimes brings several cents a bushel more than the poorer quality, though of the same grade. The warehouse men saw that they could sell by sample the best quality of a particular grade and supply its place by a lower quality of the same grade and pocket the difference. This would reduce the average quality of the whole pile, and in case the owners of any of the pile should wish to sell by sample they would suffer in consequence. The elevator owners went into the business of buying and selling grain and mixing it with that of their customers. A suit was brought to enjoin them from doing this. Much evidence was taken, and after a full hearing Judge Tukey, the Nestor of the bench of Chicago, granted the injunction on the grounds, among others, that the elevator owners were trustees or custodians of other people's property, that the interests of the public demanded that these custodians should be disinterested, and that it would be contrary to public morals to permit them to stand in a position where there would be a constant temptation for them to change the character of the property they thus held in trust; and, second, that if the elevator men were permitted to act in the dual capacity of trustees and dealers in grain they would possess such advantages as would enable them to soon drive all other buyers out of the market and thus give to themselves a monopoly of the grain trade of Chicago, and enable them, to a certain extent, to fix the price of grain in the Chicago market; for they could then, by combination, agree on the price, and by reason of their enormous storage capacity they could withhold or throw on to the market at any time vast quantities of wheat, and thus depress or raise the market at pleasure, which would not be so if there were many owners. The case was appealed to the Supreme Court, and that court sustained Judge Tukey, and in a long and able opinion, expressly held that it would be against public morals and against public policy to permit the public warehouse men of this State to carry on a grain business in the same warehouse in which they keep their customers' grain.

But in the meantime the warehouse men secured the passage of a law which permits them to do the very things which the courts had held to be against public morals and against public policy. The elevator people stand together. They have an agreement not to interfere with each other's business. The moment a bushel of wheat goes into their warehouses they are entitled to two cents storage. When an outside buyer offers 70 cents a bushel it will cost him 72 cents. The warehouse men, by giving up a little of their storage charge, can offer 71 cents, and thus drive the outside buyers out of the market. This done, the market is at the mercy of the warehouse men. The effect of this legislation, therefore, is to create a monopoly and place all that section of country which in grain matters is tributary to this city at the mercy of a combination of elevator owners in Chicago. This combination can easily combine with others elsewhere, so that this legislation lays the foundation for a grain trust that will draw blood from every farmer in America. The question now is, members of the Illinois Legislature, "Does it meet your approval? Will you vote to sustain it, or will you vote for its repeal?"

A leading and prominent member of the Fortieth General Assembly, who made a good record, and is known to be an honest man, said recently: "If the next Legislature decides to investigate the rumors relative to the elevator bill, it will probably summon some of the following prominent citizens to tell what they know about the elevator bill, anyway, what it is, why it was passed, and what was done to secure its passage:

John M. Darnell,
Charles H. Crawford,
Charles Counselman,
George E. Marcy,
P. D. Armour,
Armour & Company,
Lloyd J. Smith,
Charles E. Hill,
L. O. Goddard,
Free P. Morris,
Charles A. Allen,
James Brannen,
P. B. Wear,
W. H. Harper,
John E. Thomas,
Louis E. Perrotet,
George J. Brine,
Frank Murdoch,
Delos W. Baxter,
Wm. R. Northcott,
David T. Littler,
Isaac B. Craig,
P. T. Chapman,
Caleb C. Johnson,
I. P. Rumsey,
And others.

The bribers and boodlers of 1897 will be punished in 1900.

Springfield, Jan. 5, 1900.

To the Editor of The Eagle: One of the principal reasons why I was for Sherman for Speaker was because of the hypocrisy of the people opposed to him. I was a member of the Fortieth General Assembly and I know how much money was spent to pass the Gas Frontage bill and the Warehouse bill. I know that it took much less money to pass the Allen bill. The Allen bill on its face was a fair and a necessary measure. The Gas Frontage bill, on its face, and in every other particular, was a fraud on the public and a menace to the people. It created a perpetual monopoly and deprived the people of Chicago of their inherent rights. When the attorney of the Trust who was on the ground spoke to me about it, I gave my objections freely. I know that many other members had objections. I know how they were silenced. They were silenced with money, as every one knows, and the prices paid depended upon a man's kicking ability. The Warehouse bill was also bad on its face. It was a blow to the grain dealer and the farmer. The Warehouse bill bribed its way through the Legislature. Yet the great daily papers of Chicago have never said a word about the Gas Frontage law or the Warehouse law. WHY? WHY? WHY? We members have our own opinions as to the WHY, especially where the dailies are trying to kill everyone connected with the comparatively innocent Allen law. That is why we were for Sherman for Speaker. The majority of the members hate hypocrisy and love consistency.

A REPUBLICAN MEMBER.

Every honest member of the Legislature should vote to repeal the infamous warehouse bill passed at the last session.

The State Board of Railroad and Warehouse Commissioners is preparing to introduce a bill which will bring all street railway, express and telephone and telegraph companies under their jurisdiction to the extent of requiring the corporations to furnish the board with annual reports of their earnings. The stock yards and the sleeping car companies will also be included in the board's bill. The measure, according to Chairman Lindley, is not designed to increase the power of the board, but simply to give it a supervisory power in certain details that are of more or less concern to the public.

The attorney for the Gas Trust who was in Springfield in 1897 should certainly be examined.

An investigation into the passage of the notorious warehouse and gas measures by the last General Assembly is now looked upon as a certainty.

When the books of a number of Chicago corporations are opened it will be discovered that the warehouse bill materially increased their expense account.

Some of the witnesses who will be called will be somewhat out of the ordinary, but their connection with the corruption of the law-making power of the State will make their attendance imperative.

The Sangamon County Grand Jury will probably assist the Legislature materially this winter.

The agents who handled the Warehouse boodle at Springfield are well known.

It will not be hard to find out the names of the big game behind them.

The agents who arranged for the Gas deal are also well known.

The investigation will drag their co-partners and bosses to the front.

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One of the bright young members from Cook County, who is going to introduce the resolution in the House, calling for an investigation, has kindly furnished a copy of it to The Eagle, with the sole request that his name be not given out at present, for obvious reasons.

Following is the resolution which the gentleman will introduce, and which will pass the House, or the people will know the reason why:

Whereas, Public rumor attaches to the passage of the Warehouse Bill and also of the Gas Frontage and Consolidation Bill by the last General Assembly the stigma of bribery; and,

Whereas, The names of several members of the present General Assembly are repeatedly mentioned with having received bribes in connection with the passage of these measures; and,

Whereas, Certain public officials, corporation lawyers and other citizens are

bribe-taking, conspiracy and other matters which have enveloped the State House and burdened the political atmosphere of Illinois since the adjournment of the last Legislature in connection with gas consolidation, railroad consolidation and elevator and warehouse bills passed at Springfield at the last session of the Legislature were on the able Judge's mind, as well as certain franchises now pending in the City Council. It is apparent that the resolution for an investigation at Springfield this session will develop some startling sensations. A committee armed with the proper authority will call prominent Chicago lawyers and solid business men before the bar of the House to tell what they know concerning the efforts and means which were employed to secure the passage of gas, railroad consolidation, and warehouse bills.

"I call your attention to this matter now because bribery of public officials is putting the knife at the throat of the very nation itself," continued Judge Waterman. "This is a government of the people, for the people and by the people, theoretically, at least, and no such government can long or ought long to exist if the bribery of public officials elected by the people to serve the people is permitted to go unpunished."

The remarks of his honor caused a sensation in the court room. Judge Waterman occasionally read from the statutes defining bribery and its punishment.

The following from the court's charge is regarded as significant:

"You have heard read a portion of the statute concerning bribery. Bribery is frequently, when committed, the result of a combination of two or more persons to bribe, or to bring about bribery. Whenever two or more persons by concerted action combine to accomplish a criminal and unlawful purpose, or some purpose not in itself criminal, by criminal or unlawful

warehouse and elevator law, which was passed through the most barefaced bribery.

So that the chances for an investigation are good.

And an investigation will send several learned gentlemen to the State's prison.

Among the witnesses who can be secured and who will testify are some who will directly correct the legal bribers and their go-betweens with the members of the General Assembly.

It takes three years to outlaw a felony, and the three years which would outlaw these Gas Trust and Elevator Trust felonies will not be up before 1900.

So that there is plenty of time for the committee to meet and bring in its report and for the grand jury to indict the legal and other bribers and to start them for Joliet before two of the three years are over with.

The most baneful, threatening and dangerous influence in public life to-day is in the shape of the all-corrupting corporations, and they are themselves rapidly giving that fact the benefit of public demonstration. The only way to secure our politics, our Legislatures and our courts against their polluting influence is to take the great monopoly they now control out of their hands and administer it as a trust for the people.

The legislative investigation this winter will throw some side lights on legislative bribery that will be of value to the people.

Judge Adams A. Goodrich merely went to Springfield for his health.

It is stated by one who knows that most important evidence has been obtained of the amount paid out to pass the warehouse bill in 1897. It is also



HON. WILLIAM LORIMER,
Congressman from the Second Illinois District.

Implicated as having been engaged in the nefarious work of bribing the members of the General Assembly to pass these laws; and,

Whereas, All respect for government will disappear from the minds and hearts of the people if the law-making power of the State is suffered to lose prestige in their eyes; and,

Whereas, The charges relative to the passage of the Warehouse and Gas Bills are so notorious and so freely talked of that this General Assembly cannot retain its self-respect without paying attention to the matter, therefore be it

Resolved, By the House of Representatives, that a committee of nine members be appointed to investigate fully all charges made with reference to the passage of the Warehouse and Gas Bills, the names of all members of the present General Assembly in any way implicated, and the names of the person or persons who bribed the members or who directly or indirectly took part in procuring said bribery; and,

Resolved, That this committee when appointed shall have full power to send for all persons and papers necessary in the conduct of the investigation.

Let the introducer of the resolution for an investigation of gas and warehouse legislation at Springfield remember these remarkable words: "There is no man whose position is so great or whose wealth is so extensive that he is above the law. If guilty of crime, he should be punished as quickly and as severely as the common thief or burglar."

Judge Waterman made use of these words in his instructions to the grand jury of Cook County. He had been talking about bribery and attempted bribery of public officials. It is probable that stories of bribe-taking, and

means, such act is what is known as a conspiracy; and so I say to you that if it is the case that in this county any two or more persons have combined or confederated together to bribe any official, legislative, executive or ministerial, whether the bribery is effected or not, the very combination and combining to bribe any official and to procure official action by means of bribery is itself an offense denominated by the law as conspiracy and is punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary.

"Moreover, it may be the case that bribery by those who are to receive or who expect to receive the profits of such criminal action is to be accomplished through agents; that the parties who expect to profit by such unlawful means will not themselves actually hand over the corrupt reward; but if they act through agents, however indirectly, they are equally guilty with those who hand over the vile stipend for which the legal action is to be done. The statute of this State provides as to necessities."

Fifteen members of the last Illinois Legislature have made affidavit to the fact that they know of their own knowledge of the use of money by Chicago corporation lawyers and their agents to pass the infamous Gas Consolidation and frontage bill and the equally infamous Warehouse and Elevator bill.

That there will be an official investigation by the Legislature goes without saying.

The people of Chicago are in arms against the Gas Trust, which is robbing them right and left by virtue of the infamous law giving it a monopoly, which was passed by the most barefaced bribery.

The farmers and grain dealers of the State are in arms against the infamous

claimed that certain middlemen, or go-betweens, have talked too freely about the sum of money paid certain members, even having gone so far as to give away the names of the persons who were bribed.

The farmers of Illinois are said to be contributing money to a fund to be used in prosecuting the warehouse boodlers of 1897.

The latest in regard to sending the warehouse and gas boodlers "over the road," is to the effect that the Attorney General of Illinois may take a hand in outlining the best way of carrying on the investigation.

One or two of the Illinois Live Stock Commissioners may be summoned and prove interesting witnesses before the Sangamon County Grand Jury when that body takes up the investigation relative to the passing of the infamous Warehouse Bill.

The jury bribers will be rooted out.

The warehouse bill created the Elevator Trust. Repeal it.

The railroads of Illinois are not willing to pay even \$5,000 for a human life. This is the reason why the un-American and inhuman \$5,000 limit law should be repealed and wiped off of our statute books.

The man who introduces a bill to repeal the \$5,000 limit law and secures the repeal of this infamous enactment can have any office in the gift of the voters of Illinois.

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